Neighborhood Watch Mechanics

Corporal Scott Gordon

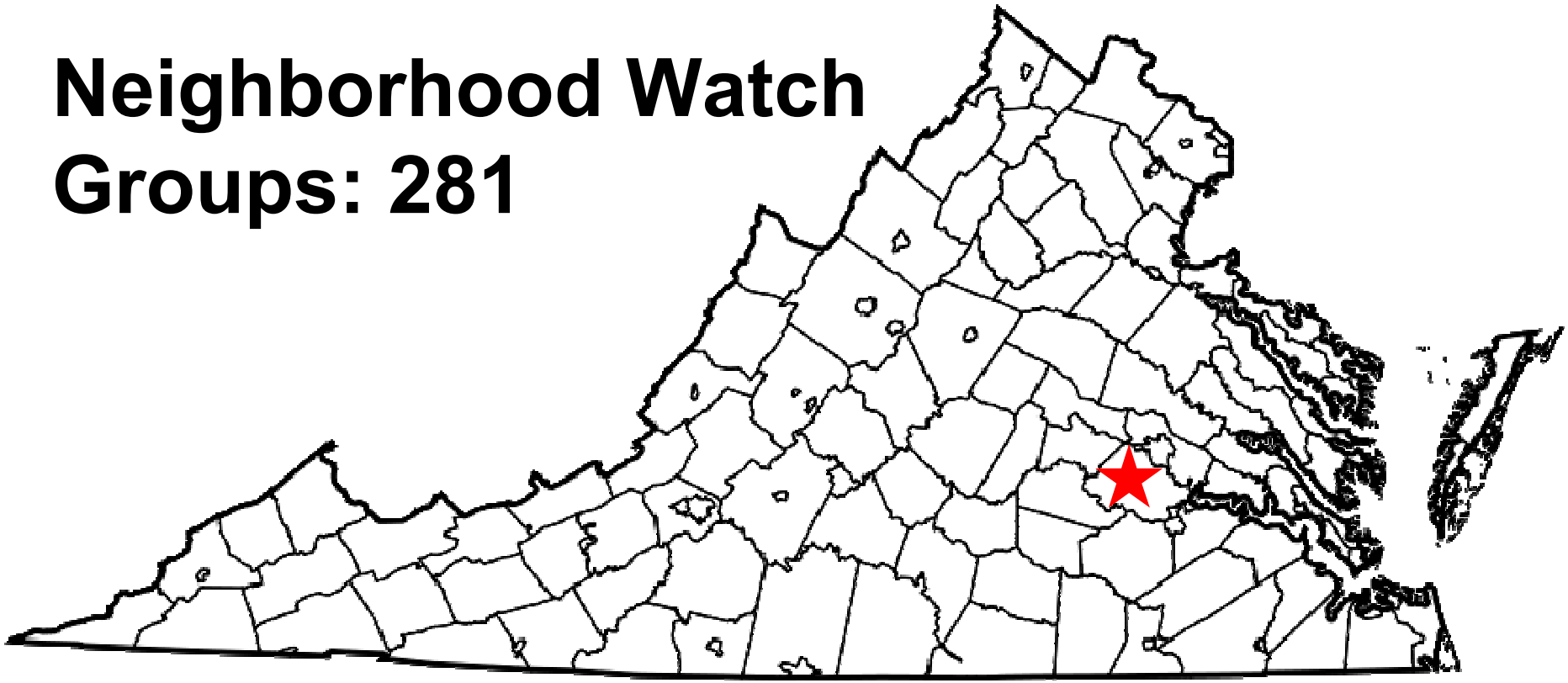
Chesterfield County Police Department

Chesterfield County

Population: 316,000

Area: 437 square miles

Neighborhood Watch Groups: 281



Neighborhood Watch
Report suspicious activity
Learn what is normal
Prevent and fight crime

How to Start

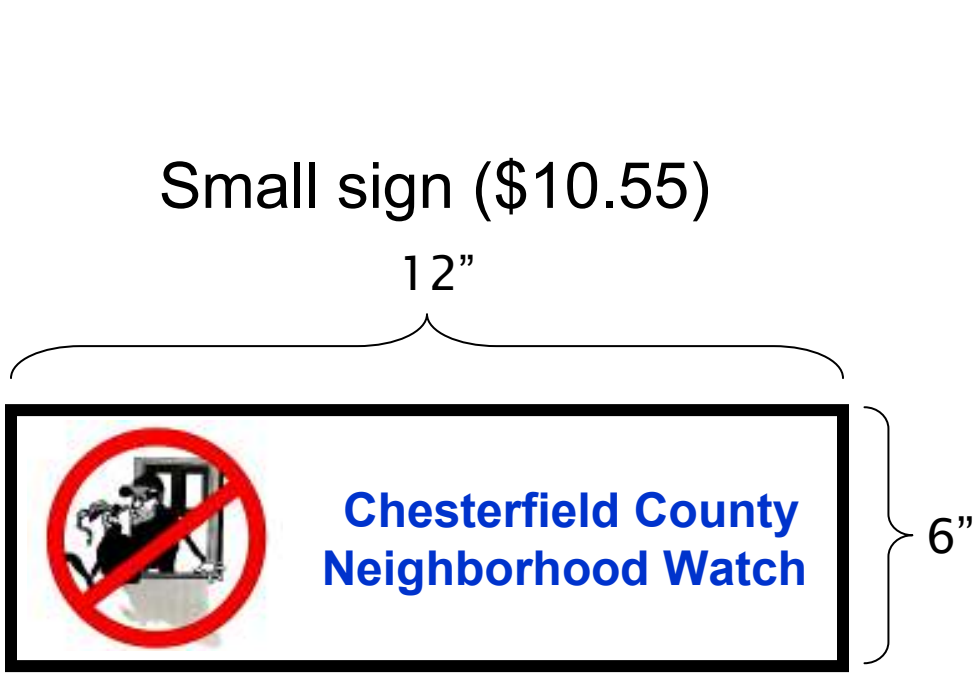
- Call the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator
- Obtain a 60% petition
- Recruit and compile block captains list
- Conduct start-up meeting
- Train
- Build participation

Basic Components

- Planning committee, chair/coordinator and block captains
- Communications: email, phone tree, social network site, meetings and newsletters
- Develop a partnership
- Neighborhood Watch signs

Neighborhood Watch Signs

Small sign ($10.55)



Reporting a Crime

Stay calm

Call police immediately

- Emergency
- Non-emergency

Stay on the phone to provide:

- Location
- Type
- Injuries
- Suspect and/or vehicle description(s)

When to Report an Incident

- Screaming or shouting
- Looking into homes or car windows
- Unusual sounds
- Taking property from houses or closed businesses
- Driving slowly with no apparent destination or without lights on

Benefits of Neighborhood Watch

Unites the community

Improves crime reporting

Increases surveillance

Enhances homeland security

Increases police presence

Prevents and reduces crime

Monthly newsletter and crime stats

Who Can Participate?

- Residents (owners and renters)
- Children
- Seniors

Why Start a Watch?

- Crime increase (real or perceived)
- Positive publicity
- Previous experience with NW

Why Do Watches Fail?

- Crime decreases or stops
- Coordinator burn out
- Residents move
- Lack of involvement
- Loss of momentum
- Vigilante squad mentality

What Makes a Successful Watch?

- Regular meetings
- Involvement
- Regular contact with police
- Information exchange
- Neighborhood assessment
- Gathering facts
- Learn basic crime prevention concepts
- Community patrols
- Social events
- Share data

2011 National Night Out

118 Block parties

15 McGruff's

Over 100 personnel and staff

Goody bag for each block party

Chesterfield ranked 7th *nationally*

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2010

POLICE•COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP'S

Community Emergency Response Team

- Learn about hazards to which our county and communities are vulnerable
- Understand the value of CERT and the volunteers
- Learn basic life saving skills
- Become aware, be prepared
- “Neighbors Helping Neighbors”

Questions?